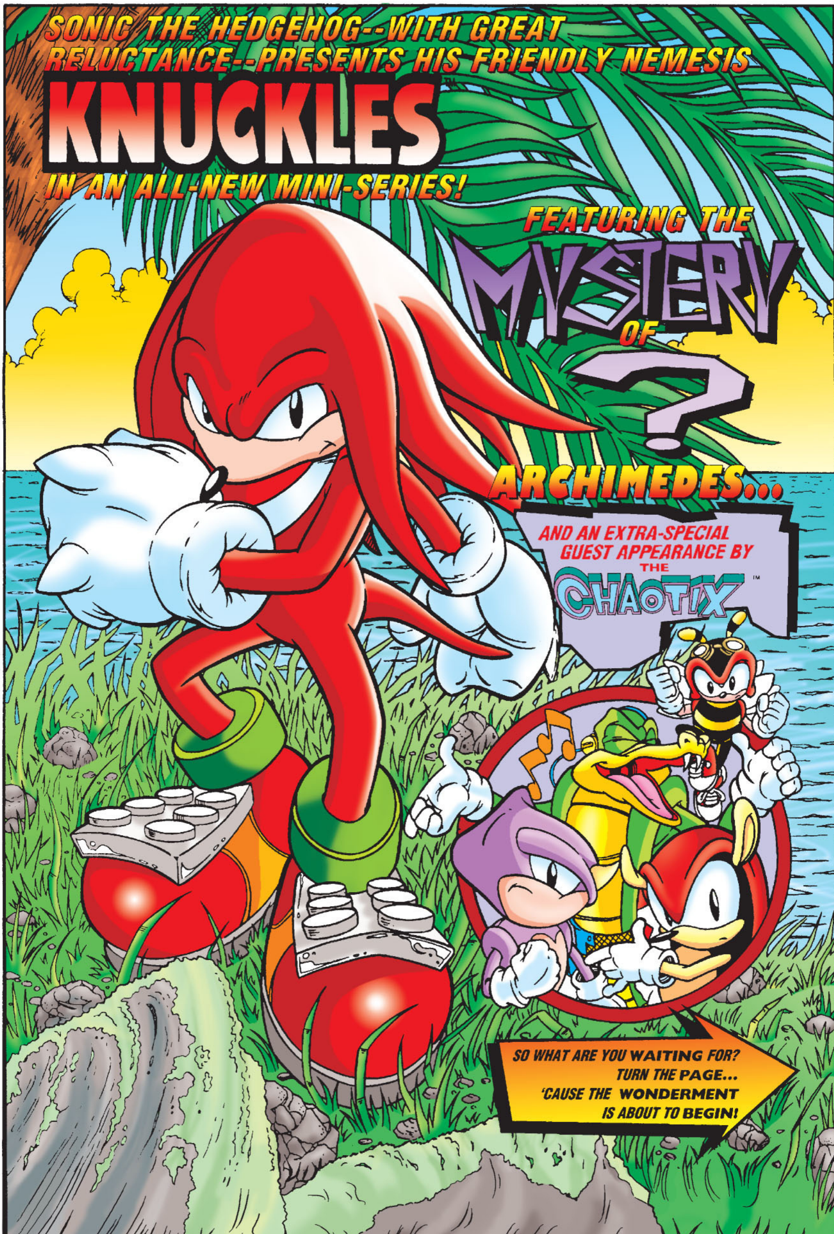

Archie ADVENTURE SERIES
#1 JULY $1.50
SEGA
SONIC'S FRIENDLY NEMESIS
KNUCKLES
#1 OF 3 ISSUE MINI-SERIES
PENDERS • SPAZIANTE • MAWHINNEY
HARVO • KANTEROVICH • EISMAN • HUNTER


SONIC THE HEDGEHOG--WITH GREAT RELUCTANCE--PRESENTS HIS FRIENDLY NEMESIS
KNUCKLES
IN AN ALL-NEW MINI-SERIES!
FEATURING THE
MYSTERY OF ?
ARCHIMEDES...
AND AN EXTRA-SPECIAL GUEST APPEARANCE BY THE CHAOTIX
SO WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? TURN THE PAGE... 'CAUSE THE WONDERMENT IS ABOUT TO BEGIN!

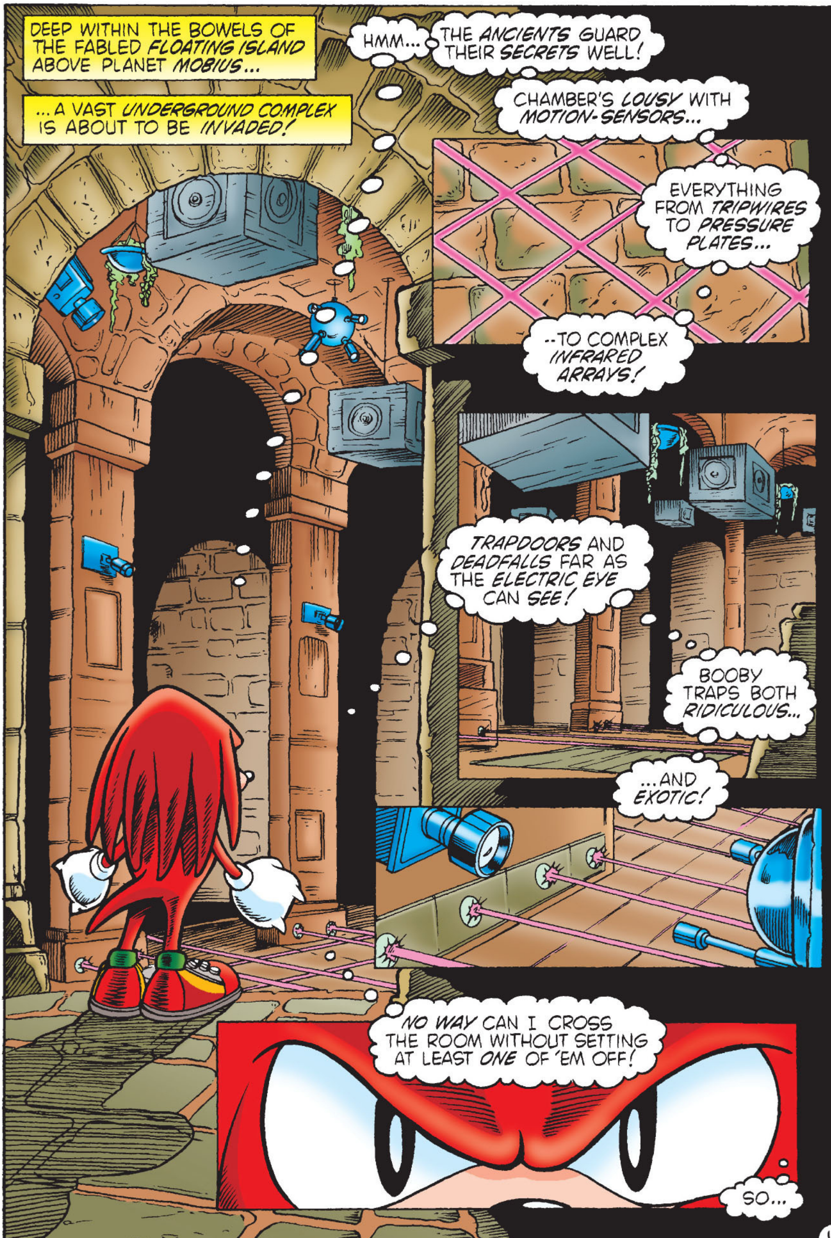
Of the countless natural wonders on the planet Mobius, none can compare to the awe and majesty of the fabled FLOATING ISLAND. Its secrets, including those of the legendary CHAOS EMERALD, are preserved and protected by KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA. He is the most current sentinel in a long line of guardians.

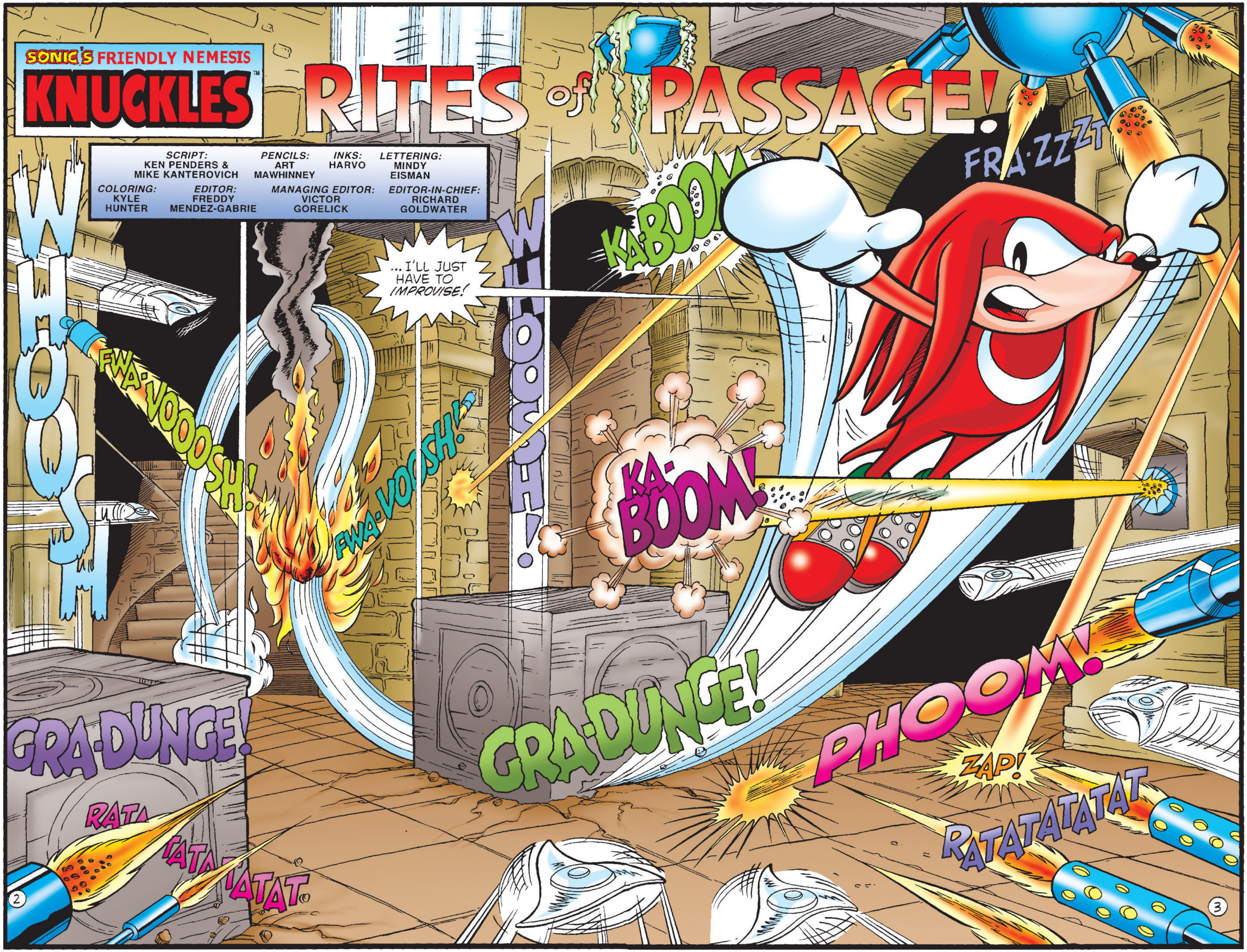
Though forever apart from the affairs of those who dwell below, the island has its own unique tales of triumph and tragedy. Raised to lofty heights by the power of science, technology would eventually prove a double-edged sword... and a culture's ultimate downfall.

Once home to the most advanced society in living memory, the land has since reverted back to wilderness. But buried deep beneath the shadow of MOUNT FATE lie signposts to a checkered past— and the artifacts of days perhaps best forgotten.

Still, history has a knack for refreshing the memories of those who fail to heed its lessons.

And that is where our story begins...


DEEP WITHIN THE BOWELS OF THE FABLED FLOATING ISLAND ABOVE PLANET MOBIUS...
...A VAST UNDERGROUND COMPLEX IS ABOUT TO BE INVADED!
HMM...
THE ANCIENTS GUARD THEIR SECRETS WELL!
CHAMBER'S LOUSY WITH MOTION-SENSORS...
EVERYTHING FROM TRIPWIRES TO PRESSURE PLATES...
--TO COMPLEX INFRARED ARRAYS!
TRAPDOORS AND DEADFALLS FAR AS THE ELECTRIC EYE CAN SEE!
BOOBY TRAPS BOTH RIDICULOUS...
...AND EXOTIC!
NO WAY CAN I CROSS THE ROOM WITHOUT SETTING AT LEAST ONE OF 'EM OFF!
SO...
1

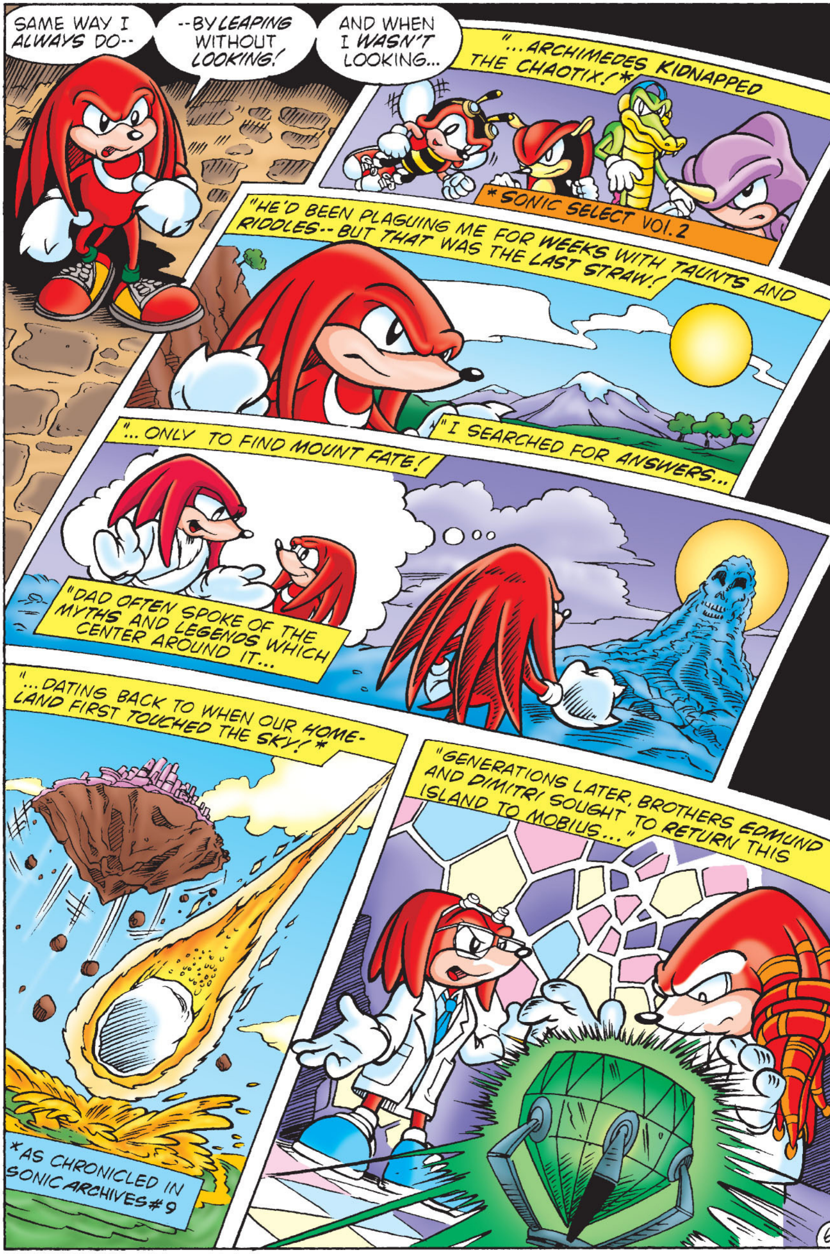


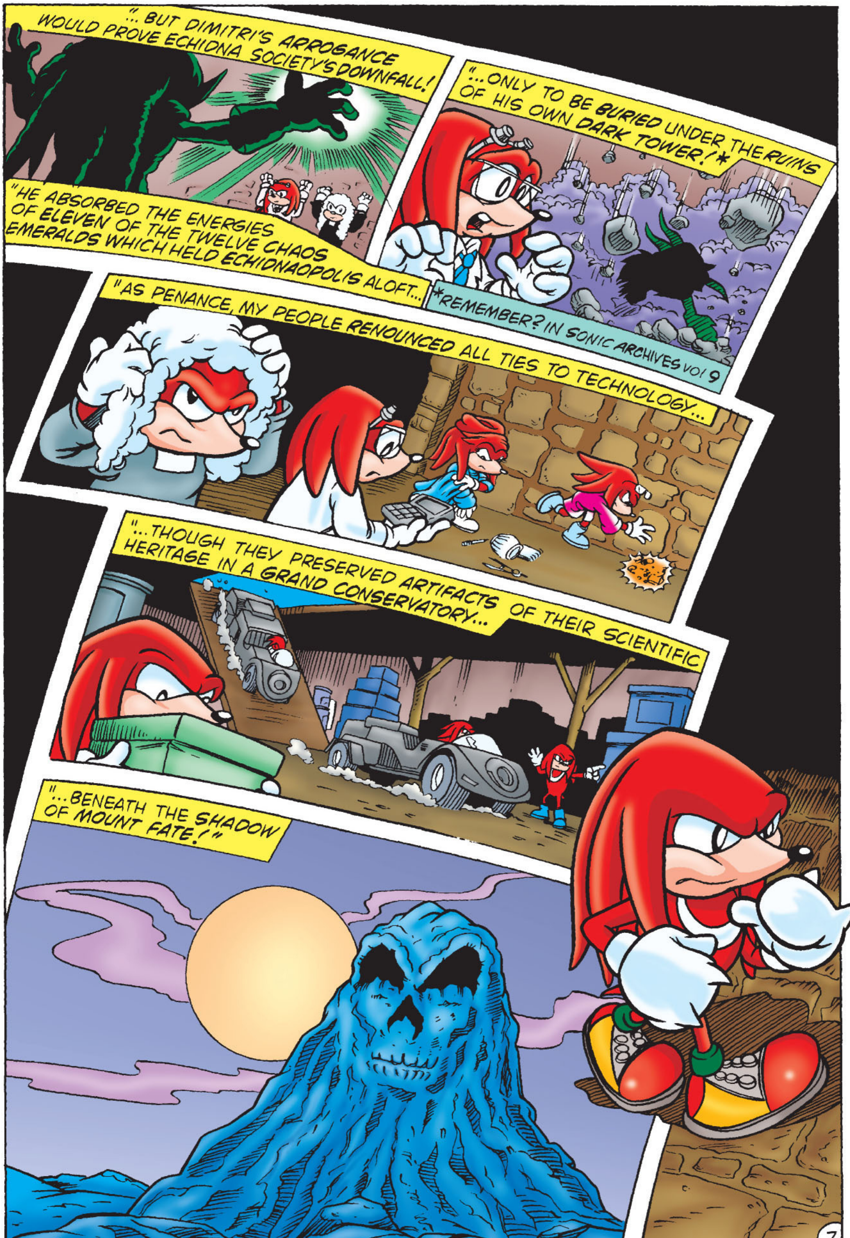
SONIC'S FRIENDLY NEMESIS
KNUCKLES
RITES of PASSAGE!
SCRIPT: KEN PENDERS & MIKE KANTEROVICH
PENCILS: ART MAWHINNEY
INKS: HARVO
LETTERING: MINDY EISMAN
COLORING: KYLE HUNTER
EDITOR: FREDDY MENDEZ-GABRIE
MANAGING EDITOR: VICTOR GORELICK
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: RICHARD GOLDWATER
WHOOSH
FWA-VOOOSH!
FWA-VOOSH!
...I'LL JUST HAVE TO IMPROVISE!
WHOOSH!
KA-BOOM
FRA-ZZZT
KA-BOOM!
GRA-DUNGE!
GRA-DUNGE!
PHOOM!
ZAP!
RATATATATAT
RATATATATAT
2
3

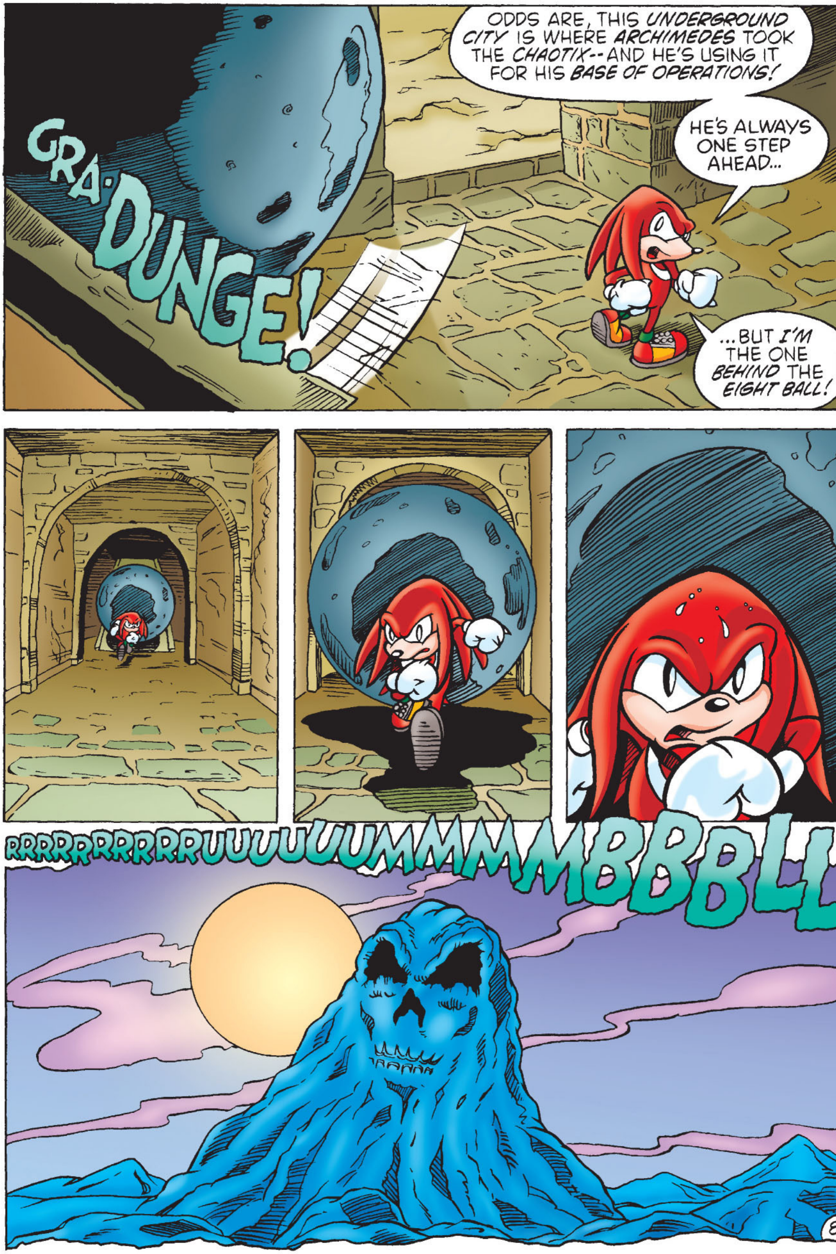

WHOA!
MY ANCESTORS DIDN'T LEAVE MUCH TO CHANCE!
FRAZZZZT!
FRAZZZZT!
KA-BOOM!
THEY'VE THROWN IN EVERYTHING BUT THE KITCHEN SINK!
PHOOM!
WHOOSH
BUT THE ONE THING I WON'T THROW IN...
GRA-DUNGE!
...IS THE TOWEL!
KA-BOOM!
RATATATATAT..

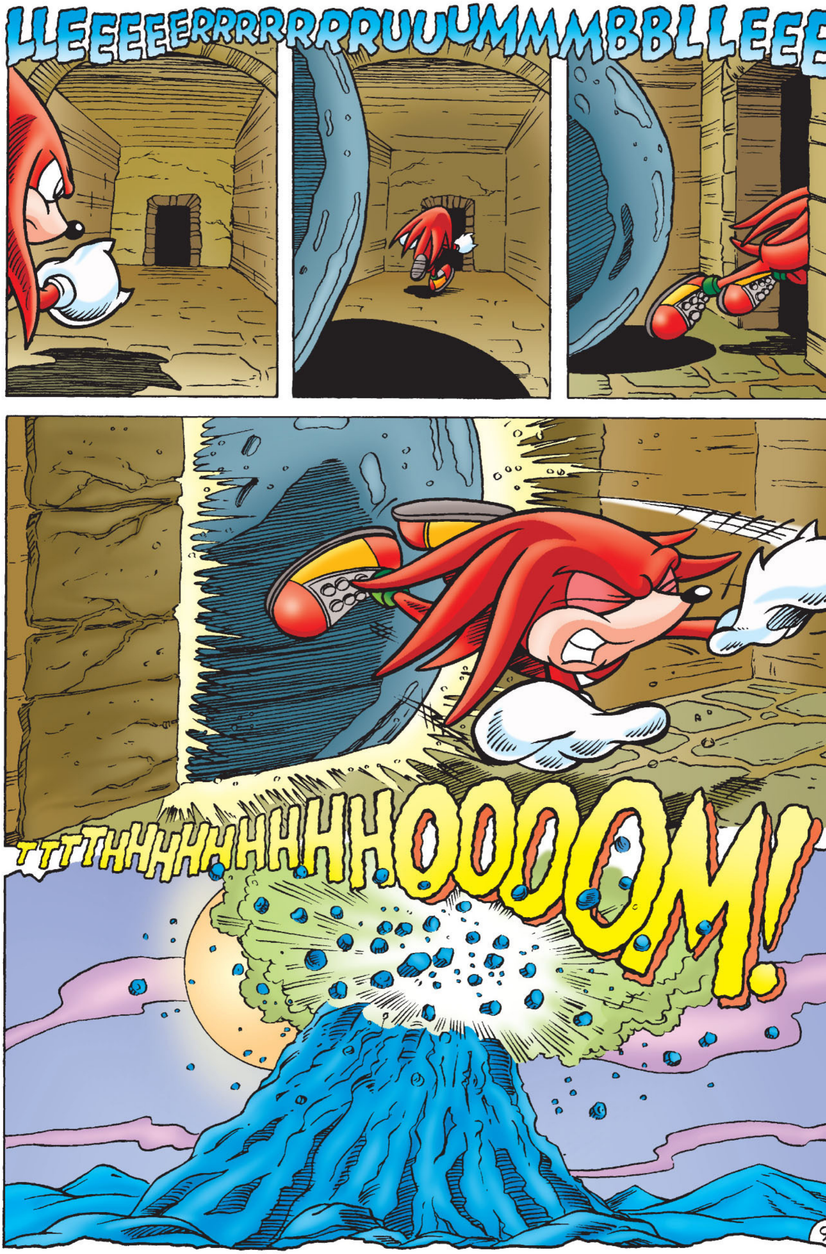


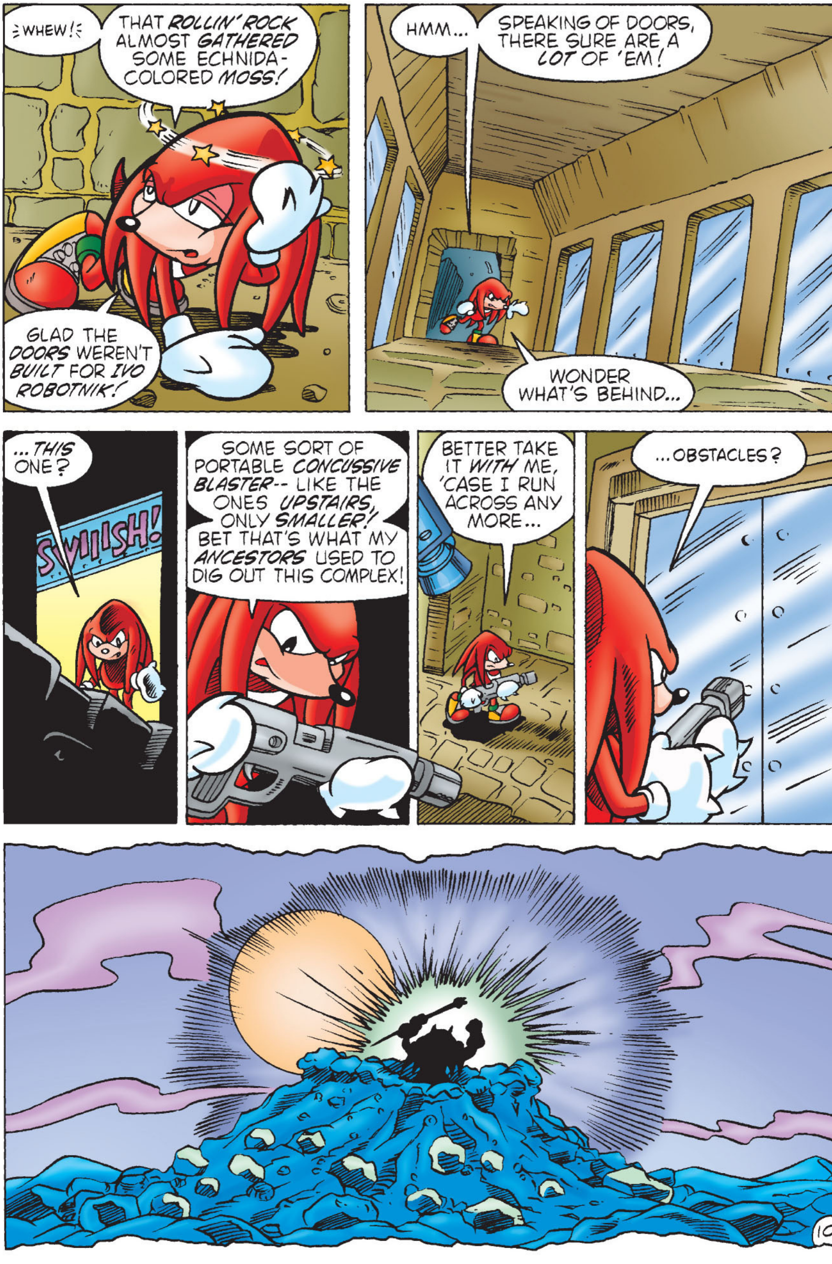
AFTER ALL...
IF YOU CAN'T STAND THE *HEAT*...
FWA-VOOOOOM!!
...FIGHT *FIRE* WITH *FIRE-POWER!*
CRASH!
SMASH!
OOOH...
...THAT'S *GOTTA* HURT!
TIN-KLE...
GOOD RIDDANCE TO BAD RUBBISH!
WHAT'S A NICE ECHIDNA LIKE *ME* DOING IN A *HIDDEN TEMPLE*, ANYWAY?
HOW'D I GET MYSELF *INTO* THIS MESS?


SAME WAY I ALWAYS DO--
--BY LEAPING WITHOUT LOOKING!
AND WHEN I WASN'T LOOKING...
"...ARCHIMEDES KIDNAPPED THE CHAOTIX!*
*SONIC SELECT VOL.2
"HE'D BEEN PLAGUING ME FOR WEEKS WITH TAUNTS AND RIDDLES-- BUT THAT WAS THE LAST STRAW!
"I SEARCHED FOR ANSWERS...
"...ONLY TO FIND MOUNT FATE!
"DAD OFTEN SPOKE OF THE MYTHS AND LEGENDS WHICH CENTER AROUND IT...
"...DATING BACK TO WHEN OUR HOME-LAND FIRST TOUCHED THE SKY!*
*AS CHRONICLED IN SONIC ARCHIVES #9
"GENERATIONS LATER, BROTHERS EDMUND AND DIMITRI SOUGHT TO RETURN THIS ISLAND TO MOBIUS..."
6

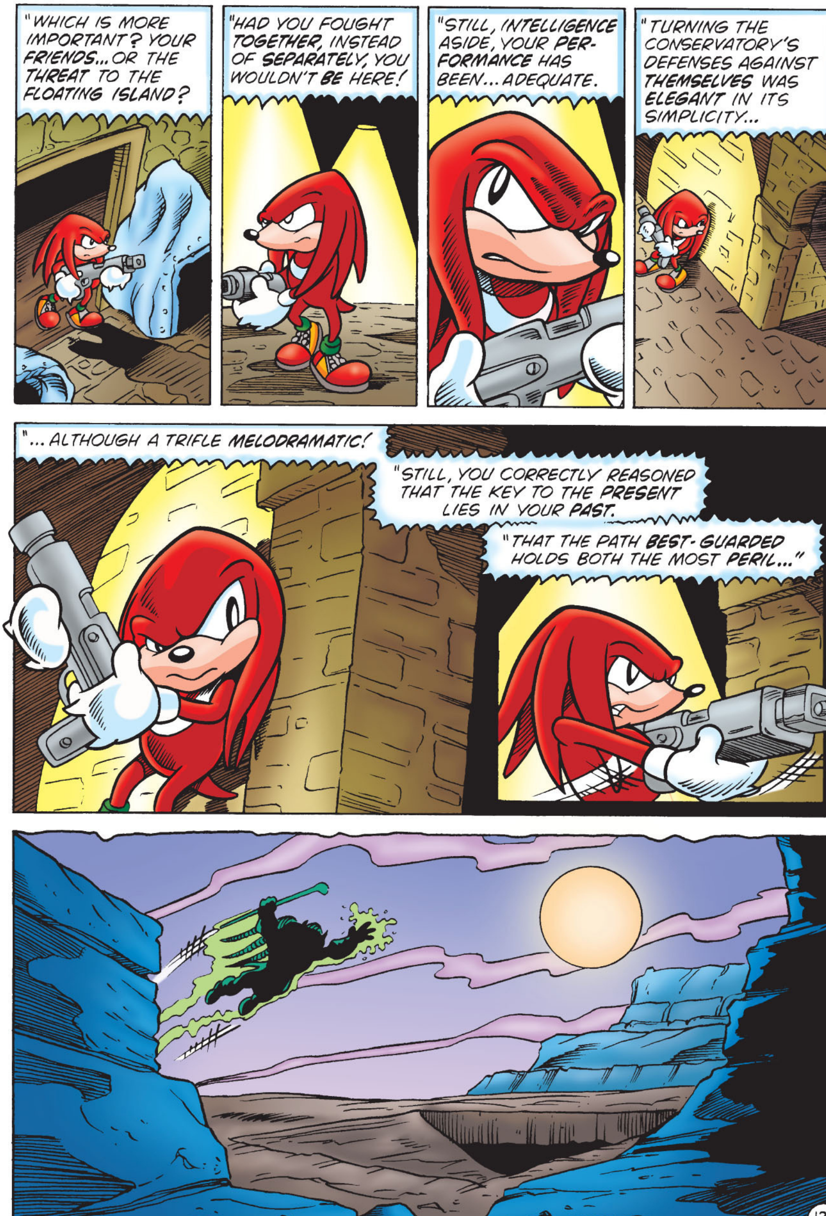

"...BUT DIMITRI'S ARROGANCE WOULD PROVE ECHIDNA SOCIETY'S DOWNFALL!
"HE ABSORBED THE ENERGIES OF ELEVEN OF THE TWELVE CHAOS EMERALDS WHICH HELD ECHIDNAOPOLIS ALOFT...
"...ONLY TO BE BURIED UNDER THE RUINS OF HIS OWN DARK TOWER!*
*REMEMBER? IN SONIC ARCHIVES VOL 9
"AS PENANCE, MY PEOPLE RENOUNCED ALL TIES TO TECHNOLOGY...
"...THOUGH THEY PRESERVED ARTIFACTS OF THEIR SCIENTIFIC HERITAGE IN A GRAND CONSERVATORY...
"...BENEATH THE SHADOW OF MOUNT FATE!"
7


GRA-DUNGE!
ODDS ARE, THIS UNDERGROUND CITY IS WHERE ARCHIMEDES TOOK THE CHAOTIX--AND HE'S USING IT FOR HIS BASE OF OPERATIONS!
HE'S ALWAYS ONE STEP AHEAD...
...BUT I'M THE ONE BEHIND THE EIGHT BALL!
RRRRRRRRRRUUUUUUMMMMMBBBBLL
8

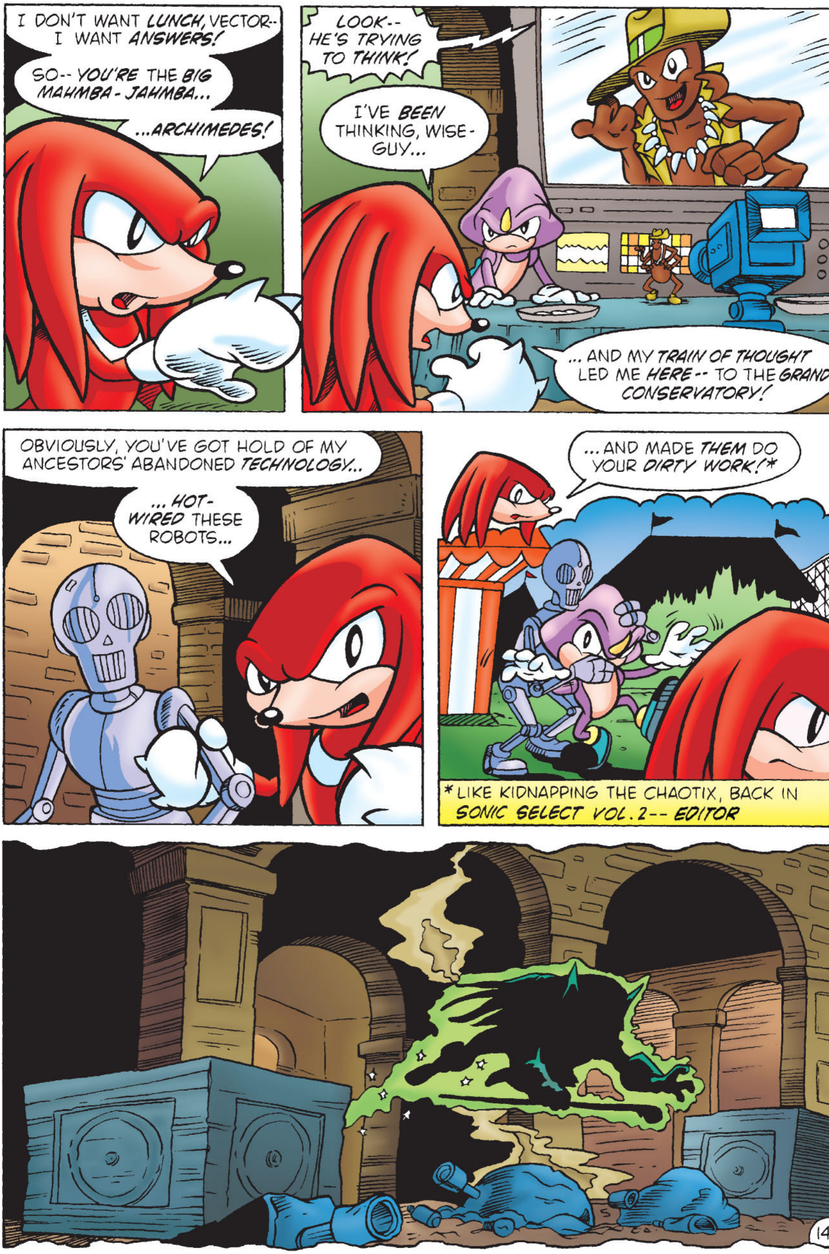

LLEEEEEERRRRRRRUUUUMMMMBBLLEEE
TTTTHHHHHHHHOOOOOM!


WHEW!
THAT ROLLIN' ROCK ALMOST GATHERED SOME ECHNIDA-COLORED MOSS!
GLAD THE DOORS WEREN'T BUILT FOR IVO ROBOTNIK!
HMM...
SPEAKING OF DOORS, THERE SURE ARE A LOT OF 'EM!
WONDER WHAT'S BEHIND...
...THIS ONE?
SWIIISH!
SOME SORT OF PORTABLE CONCUSSIVE BLASTER-- LIKE THE ONES UPSTAIRS, ONLY SMALLER! BET THAT'S WHAT MY ANCESTORS USED TO DIG OUT THIS COMPLEX!
BETTER TAKE IT WITH ME, 'CASE I RUN ACROSS ANY MORE...
...OBSTACLES?


GOOD WORKMANSHIP!
COULD NEVER KNOCK IT DOWN WITH MY FISTS!
FORTUNATELY...
K-CHAKT!
...I CAME PREPARED!
KRA-KOOOOM!


"WHICH IS MORE IMPORTANT? YOUR FRIENDS...OR THE THREAT TO THE FLOATING ISLAND?
"HAD YOU FOUGHT TOGETHER, INSTEAD OF SEPARATELY, YOU WOULDN'T BE HERE!
"STILL, INTELLIGENCE ASIDE, YOUR PERFORMANCE HAS BEEN...ADEQUATE.
"TURNING THE CONSERVATORY'S DEFENSES AGAINST THEMSELVES WAS ELEGANT IN ITS SIMPLICITY...
"...ALTHOUGH A TRIFLE MELODRAMATIC!
"STILL, YOU CORRECTLY REASONED THAT THE KEY TO THE PRESENT LIES IN YOUR PAST.
"THAT THE PATH BEST-GUARDED HOLDS BOTH THE MOST PERIL..."
12


-- AND THE BRIGHTEST PROMISE!
CHARMY... ESPIO... MIGHTY... VECTOR... YOU'RE ALL RIGHT?
WHY SHOULDN'T WE BE?
OUR HOST HAS BEEN VERY GRACIOUS!
YEAH.
AND HE FED US, TOO!
PULL UP A CHAIR...
...THERE'S SPARERIBS TO SPARE!

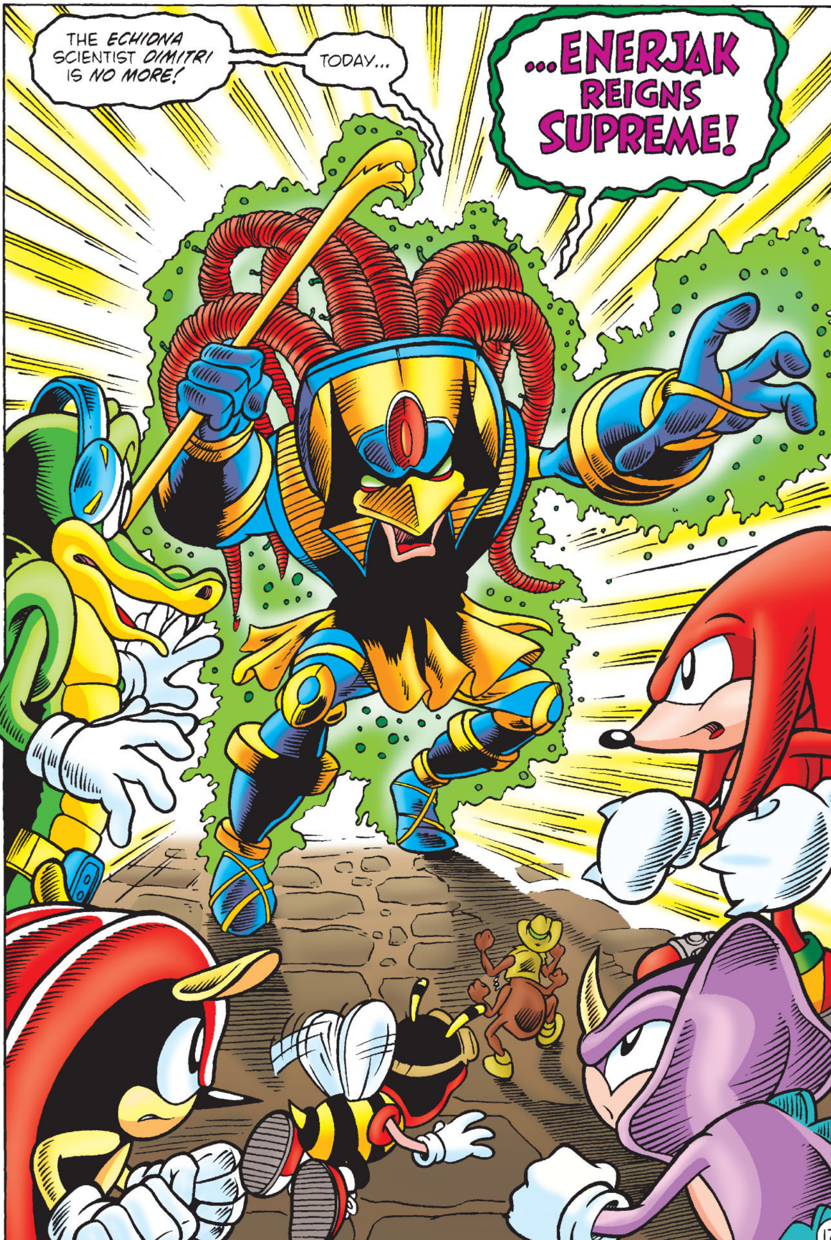

I DON'T WANT LUNCH, VECTOR-- I WANT ANSWERS!
SO-- YOU'RE THE BIG MAHMBA-JAHMBA...
...ARCHIMEDES!
LOOK-- HE'S TRYING TO THINK!
I'VE BEEN THINKING, WISE-GUY...
... AND MY TRAIN OF THOUGHT LED ME HERE -- TO THE GRAND CONSERVATORY!
OBVIOUSLY, YOU'VE GOT HOLD OF MY ANCESTORS' ABANDONED TECHNOLOGY...
... HOT-WIRED THESE ROBOTS...
...AND MADE THEM DO YOUR DIRTY WORK!*
*LIKE KIDNAPPING THE CHAOTIX, BACK IN SONIC SELECT VOL. 2-- EDITOR



WHAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND IS HOW YOU DISAPPEARED LAST TIME IN THE CHAOS CHAMBER...*
* SEE "FIRST CONTACT" IN SONIC SELECT VOL.1
...AND CARVED YOUR INITIALS INTO A SOLID HUNK OF SOLID GRANITE!*
ARCHIMEDES
YOU'RE SMALL... BUT HARDLY...
...INVISIBLE?
HE'S GONE!
HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA
15

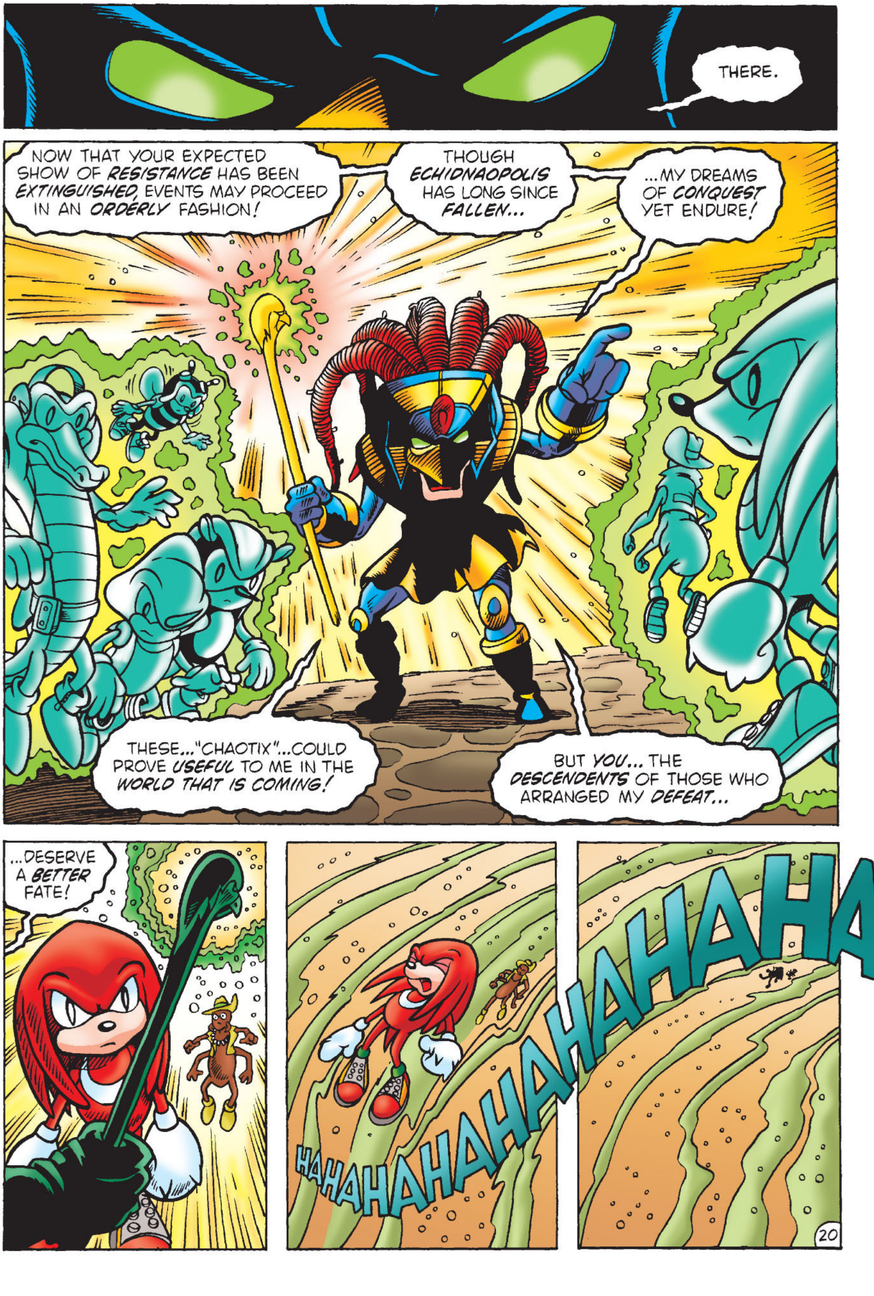


BLUE SMOKE AND MIRRORS--THE MAGICIAN'S ART!
A LITTLE MISDIRECTION GOES A LONG WAY!
AND AS FOR THE REST...
FWA-VOOOSH
WHOA!
THINK YOU'RE PRETTY HOT STUFF, HUH?
AS A MATTER OF FACT...
I DO!
MY PEOPLE HAVE PULLED ECHIDNA FAT OUT OF THE FIRE MORE TIMES THAN I CAN COUNT...
...AS FAR BACK AS THE ORIGIN OF THIS ISLAND!
THE FIRE-ANT IS CORRECT...HIS KIND ONCE THWARTED MY WILL!
BUT THAT WAS LONG, LONG AGO.
I HAVE GROWN...LEARNED... EVOLVED DURING MY IMPRISONMENT BENEATH MOUNT FATE!
16

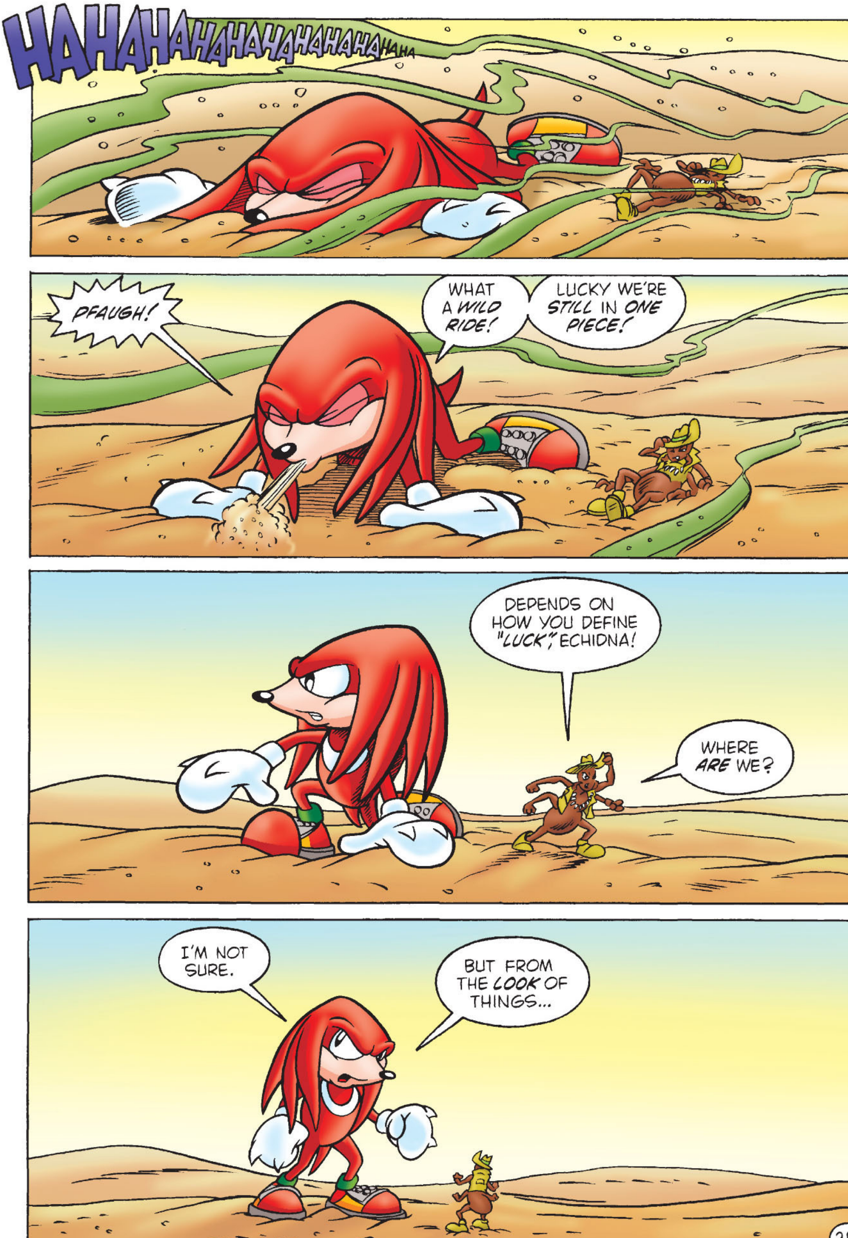

THE ECHIDNA SCIENTIST DIMITRI IS NO MORE!
TODAY...
...ENERJAK REIGNS SUPREME!
17

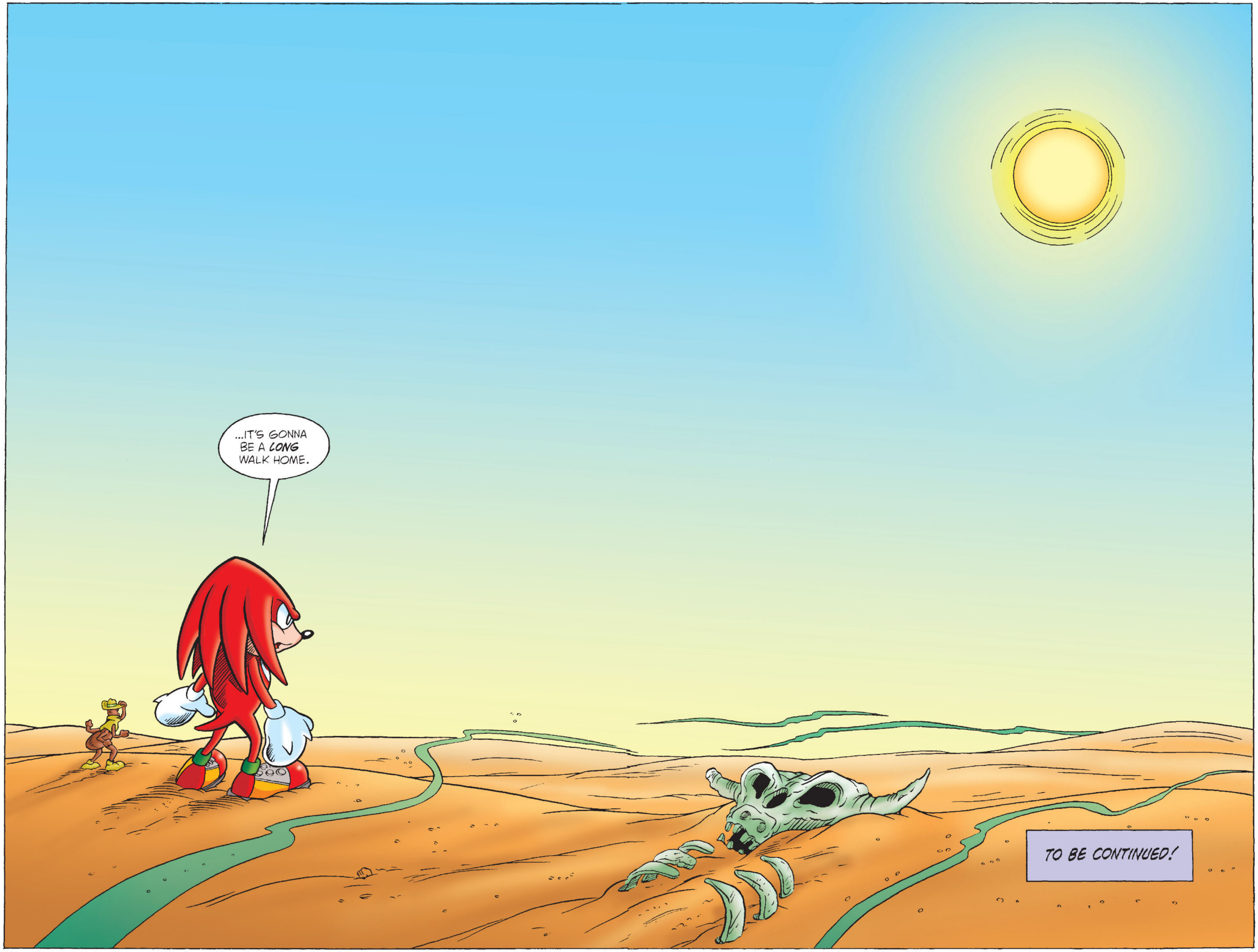

ENERJAK--?
THE GREAT EVIL OF LEGEND!
EVERYONE-- GET BACK! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DEALING WITH!
A FRAUD-- THAT'S WHAT!
DIMITRI WAS DESTROYED-- CRUSHED BY THE RUBBLE OF HIS DARK TOWER!
NO ONE-- NOTHING--COULD HAVE SURVIVED!
HOW QUICKLY THEY FORGET.
ELEVEN SHATTERED CHAOS EMERALDS EMPOWER ME!
I AM IMMORTAL... ETERNAL...
...AND INDESTRUCTIBLE!
OH?
WELL, LET'S JUST SEE HOW "INDESTRUCTIBLE" YOU ARE!
GOOD.
I WAS HOPING YOU'D TRY SOMETHING FOOLISH.


VRRRMMMMMMBBLLL
SPING!
SPING!
SPING!
SPING!
SPING!
SPING!
FWA-VOOOM!



THERE.
NOW THAT YOUR EXPECTED SHOW OF RESISTANCE HAS BEEN EXTINGUISHED, EVENTS MAY PROCEED IN AN ORDERLY FASHION!
THOUGH ECHIDNAOPOLIS HAS LONG SINCE FALLEN...
...MY DREAMS OF CONQUEST YET ENDURE!
THESE..."CHAOTIX"...COULD PROVE USEFUL TO ME IN THE WORLD THAT IS COMING!
BUT YOU... THE DESCENDENTS OF THOSE WHO ARRANGED MY DEFEAT...
...DESERVE A BETTER FATE!
HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA
20


HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA
PFAUGH!
WHAT A WILD RIDE!
LUCKY WE'RE STILL IN ONE PIECE!
DEPENDS ON HOW YOU DEFINE "LUCK," ECHIDNA!
WHERE ARE WE?
I'M NOT SURE.
BUT FROM THE LOOK OF THINGS...


...IT'S GONNA BE A LONG WALK HOME.
TO BE CONTINUED!